

CityNews

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SPRING 2015



GARY SMITH, MAYOR JAY DEAN AND JOHN SIMS

Longview Election Draws Near

Candidates vie for new positions as other terms end.

Longview will experience its first open mayoral election in ten years with early voting beginning in April. Three sitting council members, Mayor Jay Dean, District 1 Councilman John Sims and District 2 Councilman Gary Smith will not seek re-election due to term limits or retirement. When the election is over, there will be at least three and as many as four new council members.

Retiring from Longview City Council:

- ▶ Jay Dean, Mayor (2005-2015)
- ▶ John Sims, District 1 (2006-2015)
- ▶ Gary Smith, District 2 (2012-2015)

Running to replace Mayor Dean are oral surgeon Andy Mack, businessman/Councilman Richard Manley and minister/businessman G. Floyd. This opens up Manley's seat for a one-year unexpired term that will be filled with either church director Ben Shelton or businessman David Wright.


The District 1 seat will be filled with either retired financial advisor Ed Moore or engineer Jearl P. Morris. The District 2 seat will be filled with Longview teacher Nona Snoddy since she is running unopposed. Longview council members serve three-year terms.

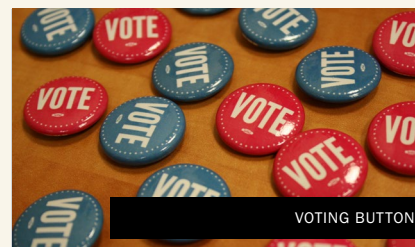
"I'm most proud of spending seven years getting the mayor and the rest of the council to build the animal shelter," said councilman John Sims. "I'll miss the great people that I met during my years of service to the City but I hope to serve on the animal shelter board of directors."

Gary Smith said his proudest moments while serving were meeting all the great people from the state of Texas. "I'll miss the process of City government and helping people improve their quality of life but I'll continue helping in some form or fashion to improve people's lives."

Mayor Jay Dean reminisced that he will miss the interaction with staff the most but is looking to the future. "I hope to serve my community in another seat if God wants me to do so," Dean said.

Dean was originally elected to Council District 5 in 1998. Dean was elected Mayor in 2005 following the resignation of Murray Moore. He was reelected to three full terms in 2006, 2009 and 2012.

Longview City Election results will be posted on the City website and CityView Municipal Television after voting concludes on May 9. 



Early Voting

April 27 - May 1 (M-F) from 8 am to 5 pm

May 2 (Sat) from 10 am to 2 pm

May 4 & 5 (M-T) from 8 am to 8 pm

All early voting is conducted in the lobby of City Hall, 300 West Cotton Street.

Election Day Voting

Saturday, May 9 from 7 am to 7 pm

City election polling places on Election Day are located in each of the six City Council Districts.

District 1

Pine Tree Community Center
1701 Pine Tree Road, Longview

District 2

Stamper Park Resource Center
502 S. Center, Longview

District 3

Broughton Recreation Center
801 S. MLK Blvd., Longview

District 4

New Forest Park Middle School
1644 N. Eastman Road, Longview

District 5

Spring Hill Auditorium
3200 Spring Hill Road, Longview

District 6

City Hall
300 W. Cotton Street, Longview

NOTE: Continued on page 3

Summer Reading Club at the Longview Public Library


Superheroes will invade this summer!

Each year the library hosts an action packed Summer Reading Club full of activities designed to get children and families reading all summer long. This fantastic program will bring thousands of families into the library. We host this program not only at our main branch but also at our Broughton location as well. This allows us the ability to reach more families in Longview. It is without a doubt our busiest time of the year.

Summer Activities:

- **Mondays** Kids play the highly popular game Minecraft on our computers.
- **Tuesdays** Fun dramatic (play) portrayals of famous children's books during Story Times.
- **Wednesdays** Paid performers bring the outside world into the library!

- **Thursdays** Movie day for the whole family with films like Despicable Me along with free popcorn.
- **Fridays** Community outreach day featuring local speakers who teach kids ballooning and more.

This year's Summer Reading Club theme is Superheroes. The June 12 kickoff party (10 am to noon) is followed by six weeks of activities. Children win prizes for keeping a log and reading every week. Then, we wrap up this whole summer full of fun with an end of Summer Reading Club party on July 29 from 10 am to noon. Children who come to the library all summer long and read each week can receive prizes. We give away free books, stuffed animals, restaurant gift cards and other fun prizes. We really go out with a bang! Call 903-237-1345 to learn more. 



“It gets kids involved in a universe that is opening up to them.”

– Kelly Semlear, Longview parent

Community Comes Together to Build New Animal Shelter

City, county, private donors make new facility a reality.

Earlier this year, Longview City Council approved proceeding with the construction of a new 20,885 square foot animal shelter. The new shelter, set to open mid 2016, will be operated by the City of Longview. Currently, the City does not own or operate a shelter, but instead contracts with the Humane Society of Northeast Texas to provide those services.

With more than 8,000 animals being turned over to the existing facility each year, and a large percentage of those animals being euthanized, the community sees the need for improvements. Gregg County has committed \$2.5 million towards the cost of the \$5.75 million project, with the City of Longview and donors contributing the remainder.

The existing facility lacks many of the modern features found in shelter operations today. The new structure will be open and airy with a retail-style environment. It will house its own veterinarian surgical suite so that animals can be spayed, neutered and treated for common diseases on

site. It will also feature a large classroom space for education and community events. A specialized heating and cooling system will improve air quality and reduce animal disease. An outdoor dog walking area will help create better pets. Applied socialization principles like dog walking and grooming will yield a more stable, happy, and trustworthy companion.


“This shelter will be remarkable for our community and has been long overdue.”

– Alicia Lee Nolte, Longview Resident

The new shelter will also have a separate entry for dog or cat surrender and will have 84 dog kennels, 14 small dog display cases, a large dog display area, 15 dog quarantine kennels, 8 dog isolation kennels, 20 cat display cases, 2 cat colonies, 124

cat quarantine cages, and 6 cat isolation cages.

Many sponsorship and donor opportunities are available to help with the construction and operation of the new state-of-the-art facility. All values of monetary gifts are welcome. Naming opportunities begin at \$10,000. Other gifts include benches at \$1,000, sponsored dog or cat kennels at \$1,000, and Friend of the Shelter status at \$100 or more. Your tax-deductible donation to the City of Longview for the Longview Animal Shelter and Adoption Center will help with the construction and operation of the new state-of-the-art facility. Together, we can inspire and involve the community in the ultimate goal of placing as many animals as possible in good, caring homes.

The first major donation of \$100,000 was provided by Longview's Alicia Lee Nolte and Ella Bleu Nolte for the shelter's Spay Neuter Clinic. Several other donors have also begun to make commitments of support for the project. To donate to the shelter please call 903-237-1021 or email shara@longviewtexas.gov. 

Did you know you can download eBooks and eAudiobooks from the Library for free?

OverDrive®
MEDIA CONSOLE™

Simply bring your charged up device & our friendly, knowledgeable staff will help you get up and running!

Call 903-237-1288 to schedule an appointment.



Library.LongviewTexas.gov

We're Planning Something BIG!



Find Out How You Can Get Involved

Learn to Swim



**Early
Registration
Now - April 30**

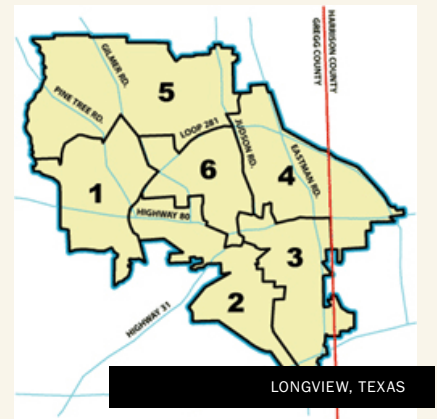


**For More Info
903-237-1270**

Parks.LongviewTexas.gov

Longview City Council Districts

Find Your District:



Required Identification

Please bring one of these:

Texas Driver's License

Unexpired or expired less than 60 days

Texas Personal Identification Card

Unexpired or expired less than 60 days

Texas Concealed Handgun License

Unexpired or expired less than 60 days

U.S. Passport

Unexpired or expired less than 60 days

U.S. Military I.D. with photo

Unexpired or expired less than 60 days

U.S. Citizenship Certificate with photo

Does not expire

Election Identification Certificate

Free at the Department of Public Safety

NOTE: Polling stations will remain open until 7 pm on Election Day. Please have your voter registration card and a valid photo ID. The name on your voter certificate and the name on your identification document should be substantially similar. You may want to contact Gregg County Elections office to update your voter registration at 903-236-8458. Please remember to be respectful of other voters by maintaining a quiet voting area and refrain from discussing polling issues or candidates once arriving inside your polling location.

Summer 2015 Recreation Activity Schedule Released

Summer youth and adult activities are opening for registration.

Long Texas summer days are filled with sunshine and in Longview there are lots of opportunities for fun. In addition to the many festivals and activities that fill these warmer months, we offer opportunities to explore the outdoors and learn new things through instructional classes. By making use of the expansive designated park areas the city has to offer, some classes are held outdoors allowing you to enjoy time spent away from home. Talented instructors help lead the class through specialized lessons and courses.

They insure that you will walk away from the group feeling accomplished and knowledgeable about your new skill. Whether you choose photography, dance or golf lessons, you are sure to benefit from the expertise offered. Class registration is quick and easy on our website: www.LongviewTexas.gov or by calling 903-237-1270.

Summer 2015 Activities

Library Storytimes:

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Storytime is a great way to spend quality time with your kids! Choose the fun storytime event that best meets your needs: Babygarden Storytime, Early Learning Journeys and Classic Children's Tales.
903-237-1345

Downtown Live

Fridays April 10 - May 1

Join us on Fridays this Spring for a relaxing time in Heritage Plaza with live music and refreshments. All performances are from 5:30 to 7:30 pm and are free to the public.
903-237-4040

Green Street Recreation Garage Sale

April 30 - May 1

This garage sale raises money for the center through renting tables to vendors, selling eclectic items at sponsored tables and selling delicious lunches. 8 am to 3 pm.
903-237-1279

H.O.T. Camp

Registration begins May 1

When you ask a kid what they want to be when they grow up many of them say: a firefighter. That dream is what started this Longview Fire Department program that gives kids a little taste of what it's really like to fight fires.
903-237-1210

Green Street Recreation Mother's Day Breakfast

Friday, May 8

Take your Mom to breakfast at this wonderful event that celebrates all the beloved mothers in our lives. The event begins at 9:30 am.
903-237-1279

AlleyFest

Saturday, May 16

Every year, Alley Fest brings together a different mix of styles and tastes. Headline bands, art and street food. 10 am to 11 pm - Admission is \$5 until 5pm, \$10 after 5pm. Children 12 & under are always free.
903-237-4049

Women's Safety Class

June 8 - June 14

This vital class will include women's safety in the workplace, shopping and at home. We will learn about handgun safety and much more. Participants must pass a background check and pre-register for this important class.
903-237-2716

Belly Dance Class

Thursdays June 4 - July 23

Belly Dance or Middle Eastern Dance is a beautiful way of expressing yourself through movement. Participants of all age and ability ranges are able to participate at their own pace. 6 pm.
903-237-1270

T. Bone Walker Blues Festival

June 5 - June 6

This festival is a two-day, two-stage celebration of the legendary bluesman, Aaron "T-Bone" Walker. There will be delta blues and electric blues musicians, food and merchandise vendors.
903-237-1230

Advanced Belly Dance

Saturdays, June 6 - July 25

Express yourself through Middle Eastern Dance. This class is for those who have experience with Belly Dance.
903-237-1270

Splash Day

Saturday, June 6

A free, one-day gift of public swimming at Longview's two pools: Longview Swim Center & Ingram Pool from Noon to 8 pm.
903-237-1270

Learn to Swim

June 8 Pre-Session One

Learn to swim at Longview Swim Center. We provide a safe environment for swimmers of all ages and abilities to learn a lifelong skill, develop water safety skills, discover the health benefits of swimming and build confidence.
903-237-1270

Beginner Golf Class

Thursdays, June 11 - July 9

Fun class with all equipment provided by Alpine Target Golf Course. Class meets from 6 to 7 pm.
903-237-1270

Summer Reading Club

June 15 - July 31

This super fun program is for kids ages 12 and under. It encourages them to read every day and it rewards them for doing it! We give out fun prizes to the kids who bring in their completed reading log each week. At the end of the summer, we have a big celebration party with prizes like new bikes, gift certificates, and more!
903-237-1345

Adult Summer Softball

Begins Monday, June 15

For the softball enthusiast, this season of softball offers fun, fitness and everything you heart desires. Call to reserve your spot. You don't want to miss out on Summer softball.
903-237-1270

Juneteenth Parade, Softball and Activities

Saturday, June 20

Broughton Recreation Center will host a variety of activities including a parade, sports tournaments, youth activities, food vendors and more.
903-237-1276

Two-Step Dance Class

Thursdays, June 25 - July 16

This fun, couples country and western dance class will teach you new moves! Class meets 7:30 to 8:30 pm.
903-237-1270

Green Street Recreation Father's Day Breakfast

Friday, June 19

Let's celebrate all the great Fathers in our lives at this fun breakfast event.
903-237-1279

Fireworks & Freedom Celebration

Saturday, July 4 | 10 am to 11 pm

Come celebrate Independence Day with activities including amusement rides, food & beverages, and a variety of entertainment, including a free Delbert McClinton concert with free fireworks at dark.
903-237-1250

Itty Bitty Beach Party

Friday, July 17

Longview Swim Center's super fun swimming party.
903-237-1270

Great Texas Balloon Race

July 24 - July 26

Balloon Glows on Friday and Saturday night entertain crowds with an awesome display of color and excitement. Look for arts, crafts and other merchandise, too.
903-237-1230